



Androclus and the Lion

Once upon a time in ancient Rome, there was a kind-hearted but unfortunate slave named Androclus. He had a mean and cruel master who treated him so badly that one day, Androclus decided to escape.

He ran away to a mysterious, wild forest, where he wandered for many days. But without food, he became very weak and sick. Feeling hopeless, Androclus found a hidden cave and, exhausted, he fell into a deep sleep inside.

Suddenly, he was woken up by a loud roar! A lion had entered the cave, and it was making a huge noise. Androclus was scared at first, thinking the lion would hurt him. But then he noticed that the lion wasn't angry, but was limping as if in pain.

Bravely, Androclus approached the lion and saw that its paw was hurting because of a big, sharp thorn stuck in it. Gently, he pulled the thorn out, and the lion was so happy and grateful! It acted like a playful dog, licking Androclus' hands and feet as if to thank him.

After this, Androclus wasn't scared of the lion anymore. They became great friends, and the lion even brought food for Androclus every day. They lived happily together in the cave, sleeping side by side.

One unfortunate day, some soldiers passing through the forest found Androclus and took him back to Rome. There, the law said that runaway slaves had to fight a hungry lion. So, a fierce lion was kept without food, ready for a fight with Androclus.

On the day of the fight, a huge crowd gathered, expecting to see a fierce battle. But when the lion was released, something amazing

happened! It was Androclus' friend from the cave! The lion ran to Androclus, not to attack, but to cuddle and play with him, just like old friends.

The confused crowd watched as Androclus hugged the lion. He then told everyone the story of their friendship and how they had lived together. He said, "I am just a man, and no man has ever been kind to me. Only this gentle lion has been my friend."

The people were moved by this story of unusual friendship. They shouted, "Let them both be free! Let them live happily together!" And so, Androclus and his lion friend were given their freedom and lived together in Rome, sharing a special bond for many years.